

5
said reproduction head having a center region comprising a ferromagnetic tunnel junction magneto-resistance effect film with a tunnel barrier layer intermediate first and second ferromagnetic layers for generating a magneto-resistance effect using said first and said second magnetic shields as electrodes so that a current flows in a vertical direction between said first and said second magnetic shields;

Q2
a recording head arranged adjacent to said reproduction head so as to use said second magnetic shield as a first magnetic pole film and having a second magnetic pole film opposing to said first magnetic pole via a magnetic gap; and

cancel
a first end region extending from said first magnetic shield to said second magnetic shield and contacting a first of the end surfaces of said reproduction head and second end region extending from said first magnetic shield to said second magnetic shield and contacting a second of the end surfaces of said reproduction head, said first and second end regions for applying a bias magnetic field to said reproduction head;

the center region being intermediate the pair of magnetic shields so that a magneto-resistance effect is generated by a current flowing almost in a vertical direction to the magnetic shields.--

R E M A R K S

The application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-17 and 21-33 are pending.

The Official Action has withdrawn claims 22-31 from consideration, stating that the claims are drawn to an element having inclined walls and classified in a subclass different from that of the remaining claims.

Claim 22 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectively request reconsideration and allowance of claims 22-31.

The Official Action rejected claims 1-12, 14, 16, and 17 21, 32, and 33 under § 102(e) as anticipated by DILL et al. 5,898,548.

The Official Action rejected claims 13 and 15 under §103(a) as obvious over DILL et al.

Thus, all the rejections rely on DILL et al. DILL et al. was filed in the U.S. on May 29, 1998.

Although the present application was filed in the U.S. on December 3, 1998, the foreign priority application was filed in Japan on December 5, 1997.

On December 3, 1998, applicants filed a certified copy of the applicants' corresponding patent application filed in Japan under No. 9-335501. Thereby, applicants claims benefit of the priority filing date of the Japanese application under the provisions of 35 USC §119.

The Official Action applied this reference as both as an anticipation and as an obviousness rejection. It is noted that at the time of the Official Action, applicants could not rely on the foreign priority date to overcome these

rejections as an English-language translation of the foreign priority application had not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR §1.55.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.55, enclosed herewith is a certified English-language translation of the foreign priority application. This translation shows that applicants had possession of the invention disclosed in the present application on the foreign priority application date, that is, on December 5, 1997.

Therefore, as applicants' priority date of December 5, 1997 predates DILL et al.'s filing date of May 29, 1998, DILL et al. is not prior art to the present invention.

As DILL et al. is not prior art to the present invention, applicants respectfully request that the pending anticipation and obviousness rejections be withdrawn.

There being no other outstanding substantive rejections, applicants request allowance of all the pending claims.

From the above, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or requires clarification, the Examiner may contact the undersigned

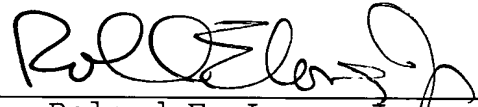
ISHIWATA et al. S.N. 09/204,222

attorney so that this application may continue to be expeditiously advanced.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By



Roland E. Long, Jr.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 41,949
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 703/521-2297

January 26, 2001